

BOARD NOTES
April 22, 2013

The regular Board meeting was held on Monday, April 22, 2013 with Rich Shail, Dale Groves, Bernie Baltes and Phil King present. Al Williamson was absent. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Julie Jerzak introduced the FBLA students who attended state competition recently. Julie announced that there are 32 students in the chapter and more than 50% placed 7th or higher. There are 65 events. Problem Solving has traditionally been New Prairie's strongest event. The chapter hosted the Fall conference this year giving students additional experience.
- Prairie View Student Work Performance

Rhonda Myers said in light of the worksessions on the 1-1 devices, she wanted the Board to see other aspects of instruction that goes on in the classrooms. Several students presented their History Fair projects chaired by Heidi Babin and Sue Koziel. Becky Reider introduced several of her Kindergarten students who were given a book writing project. Students wrote and illustrated their own books and read them to the Board.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – March 25, 2013
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Meg Buss, Earth Science Teacher – NPHS – Leave of absence beginning approximately September 11, 2013 and continuing for 6-8 weeks.
 2. Dena True – Science Teacher – NPMS – Leave of absence beginning April 16, 2013 and continuing for approximately 3 weeks (May 6, 2013)
 3. Cortny Barnes – Language Arts – NPHS – Resignation effective May 24, 2013.
 4. Jessica Feathers – 4th Grade – Prairie View Elementary School – Resignation effective July 1, 2013
 5. Scott Braun – Assistant Principal – NPMS – Resignation effective June 30, 2013
 6. Yvonne Tofthagen-Desrosiers – Art Teacher – NPHS – Retirement effective May 24, 2013.
- Employment
 1. Judy Bubanovich – Homebound Instructor – NPMS student
 2. Amy Bauer – Temporary 2nd grade Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – beginning April 8, 2013 and continuing through May 24, 2013.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Bonita Moore – Library Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School – Resignation effective May 24, 2013.
- Employment
 1. Reed Monesmith – Building Technician – Effective May 28, 2013.
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Kristin Foley – Auxiliary Guard (Poms) – 2013-2014 school year

2. Jessica Finn – Cheerleading Coach – NPMS – 2013-2014 school year
Mr. Dermody recognized Yvonne Tofthagen-Desrosiers for her service to the NPUSC. Yvonne was hired in 1978 and served as an Art Teacher at the High School, Middle School, Olive and Hudson Lake Elementary Schools as well as serving at a Building Tech Support. Yvonne has cultivated the arts. She will be missed.

Mr. Dermody also recognized Dan Shead who has served as Industrial Technology teacher at NPHS since 1975. Mr. Shead has also coached Assistant Baseball, Freshman, Assistant and Head Boys Basketball, Head Girls Basketball Coach, Assistant Football, Cougar Camps, Letterman Club and Department Chair.

Both staff members will be greatly missed. It will be sad to see them go, but we wish them the very best. Bernie said he has dealt with Dan Shead for many years and said you will not find anyone more dedicated to the students and community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mr. Dermody said we will wait until the official IREAD notification is released from the IDOE before releasing any information.
- The NPUSC has been awarded a Make-A-Difference Grant and a High Ability Grant. Barb Papai and Carrie Cannon worked very hard to secure this grant. Carrie said it is very competitive. There were 21 school corporations who applied and only 8 school corporations received the grant. Carrie said we have re-established goals to strengthen the programs. There will be two AP classes offered at the Middle School – one Math and one Language Arts. Over 300 students were tested with the CoGat screening. Students can now be placed appropriately in the HA program. This is a \$15,000 grant. Bernie asked how this will enhance the program. Carrie said we will have more ability to differentiate levels for students. Currently students have to go to a lab or work at home to access the computers.
- ISTEP multiple choice testing is approaching next week. This testing will be delivered on-line. We have run into some problems at the MS, so we will have to test in the afternoon.
- The Wellness Committee will be presenting their recommendations at the May Board meeting. The Committee received the first draft proposal approved from the IDOE. We will move to the next phase. We must comply with new federal guidelines.
- Kelley advised that the bond refunding for the refinancing of the 2006 bonds will be put out for bid. With the \$27 million bond, we could possibly incur a 1.7% interest reduction, down from 5%. We can take the proceeds in the amount of \$1.3-1.4 million which can be utilized for technology. We will keep the same payments which will still be paid off in 2024. We will add no extra debt, but will allow us to get more technology.

- Kelley advised that a new bill was passed that will settle the property taxes in LaPorte County. There will be no provisional bills, but one bill will be issued in the final part of the year. We will not receive any monies until 2014. We should be on time after that date. We will have to borrow in June to meet our obligations for June and December. We will borrow about \$4 million payable in January. This will cost us about \$30,000 in interest. The NPUSC has spent below our appropriations, but we have not received a steady cash flow. We expect to receive about \$5 ½ million in February. We will pay back our warrants at that time. The estimated total interest paid over the years is estimated to be about four teacher's salaries for a year.
- Kelley explained that the Spyglass initiated has garnered about \$11,000 in savings from utility companies.
- Reminder that the last student day is now May 23, 2013.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board accepted donations as follows:
 - Feed the Children – Value of \$2,153.60
 - Robotics Team
 - Leo's Barber - \$60
 - Harbor Automotive - \$100
 - Environmental Safety Products & Mike Olling - \$100
 - AEP Grant - \$2,800
 - Joe Janas (Former NP Graduate) - \$125
- The Board approved the second reading and adoption of Board Policy 5530.01 – Drug Testing which will now be aligned with the Athletic Handbook.
- The Board approved the modification of Nursing, Library, Instructional Assistants and Building Clerical staff hours, wages and benefits.
- The Board approved the overnight field trip request for the FBLA to attend training in Indianapolis on June 9-11, 2013.
- The Board approved the lunch prices for the 2013-2014 school year at the same rate as the 2012-2013 school year as follows:
 - Elementary Breakfast \$1.20
 - Elementary Lunch - \$1.80
 - MS/HS Breakfast - \$1.20
 - MS/HS Lunch - \$2.05
 - Milk - \$0.50
 - Adult Breakfast - \$1.50
 - Adult Lunch - \$2.90

Jim Dermody wanted to recognize Tammy Watkins for closely scrutinizing the Food Service Department to avoid increasing costs to the community.

DISCUSSION

- Student Instructional Technology Device Initiative Update
 - Jim Dermody said the concern is the financial impact of this – the initial cost and sustainability. He believes we have the resources through the bond. Mr. Dermody would like to reserve May 6th to bring this to the board for a recommendation if we can commit financially.

Bernie believes the policies will be a work in progress. He does not believe we can set a policy now when we do not know what will come up. He believes we need it and it has to be on-going. Rich said as we move forward, we will move with the policy. It is phenomenal. He feels the timing is right and he hopes it goes through.

Bernie said he knows Mr. Dermody is concerned about test scores, but Bernie feels it is a great opportunity that we can give our students. He believes the different learning patterns for students are a plus.

Jim said he appreciates the Board's dedication to attend the worksessions. He appreciates their willingness to hold the May 6th Special Board meeting date that would put us on the time track necessary to order the equipment. Bernie said if we can't do the entire financial package, could we do the infrastructure? Kelley said the infrastructure was already in the budget. We believe we have enough infrastructure in the updates that will support this project.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie feels the NPUSC meets the needs of our community, students and staff. We need to consistently look at what we are doing. It is not always about test scores.
- Rich would like to thank everyone for what they do for our school. He is very proud to represent our school corporation.